

FY 2013 IDEA Budget Software – OPEN

The IDEA budget software for fiscal year 2012-2013 is now open. We are still experiencing some issues, so we appreciate your patience.

The signed assurances and the flow-through and preschool budget submissions are due July 1, 2012. Understandably, there may be issues meeting this deadline due to the lateness of the budget software opening. However, as a reminder, there is no requirement to have the LEA's entire allocation budgeted prior to submission (not even a percentage). The only LEAs that are required to have any amount of budget completed prior to submission are LEAs that have been identified as having significant disproportionality and must budget 15% of their allocation for coordinated early intervening services. If there is a reason why the July 1 deadline cannot be met (for instance, the budget coordinator is on vacation from June 11 and June 29), please e-mail Mike at dpiidea@dpi.wi.gov and provide the reason for the missed due date *and* a date by which the budgets will be submitted.

Here are the major changes to the new year's software:

- Rather than e-mailing signed assurances to DPI, the LEA will upload the pdf document directly into the IDEA budget software.
- The FTE field is no longer required in the Personnel section. However, please remember that positions that require individual EFNs may not be rolled into one budget line item. If the salary and fringe amounts for a single individual appear to be too high, the LEA will be contacted on whether or not the budget line item represents more than one licensed individual. This does not apply to budget items such as substitute teachers or professional development.
- Special education services that are now eligible for aid even if contracted from a private vendor will require license numbers when added to the grant budget. Services include audiology, speech & language, educational interpreter, occupational therapy, physical therapy, and orientation and mobility.
- LEAs may now enter more than two contacts regarding IDEA budget and claim correspondence.

This is a link to a very helpful three-page document with tips and reminders for working with the new fiscal year: www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/pdf/fy13-budget-tips.pdf. If you are having issues with the budget software, check here first to see if it is addressed. The document includes links to short tutorials on uploading assurances and adding contacts.

Changes

It is with much regret when I write that Lori Ames, with whom many of you have worked very closely, has accepted a position with the Middleton-Cross Plains School District as the Fiscal Services Supervisor. So, although she will no longer be a resource for you at the State level, she will now be a wonderful resource for you at the district level. I certainly plan to take advantage of her new "on the ground" perspective in future technical assistance and fiscal monitoring system development. She has promised to stay very involved and will continue to be an asset to our work around special education funding. I know that she would like you all to take to heart how very much she enjoyed discussing, strategizing, and laughing with all of the people she has worked with throughout her years at DPI.

Unfortunately, this means that we are currently a person short, so there may be a longer delay in responses to e-mails and voicemail. There is a multitude of technical assistance published around common special education funding questions, so I encourage you to visit www.dpi.wi.gov/sped/lpp-budgets.html to see if your question has already been answered. The Federal Fiscal Monitoring Consultant position will hopefully be posted within the next few weeks, and I will include a link to this information in a listserv message when it is available (in case anyone is interested in applying – it's a wonderful and rewarding job!)

